

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent
Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15th District



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Rep. Dent votes to fund domestic priorities

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) voted to increase our nation's investment in important domestic programs by 2 percent over the Fiscal Year 2006 funding levels. Congressman Dent touted specific funding increases for health, education, and important public safety programs that serve the communities of Pennsylvania.

The House passed H.J. Res. 20 on Wednesday to provide Fiscal Year 2007 funding for numerous federal departments and programs along the lines requested in a letter by 13 Republican members on Monday.

Congressman Dent has been a tireless advocate for increased funding in important health and education programs, as well as other domestic priorities such as Byrne and COPS grants, the Community Development Block Grant, and the President's Competitiveness Initiative, throughout the appropriations process.

"The priorities in this bill are supported by the American people and they are good investments in our communities," Congressman Dent said.

Among important reauthorizations and adjustments for inflation included in the bill, Congressman Dent specifically touted:

- A \$619.5 million increase for **The National Institutes of Health** which will support 500 additional research grants, 1,500

first time investigators and expand funding for projects that are high risk but could have a high impact.

- \$32.3 billion for **Veterans Healthcare** - an increase of \$3.6 billion
- A \$76 million increase is provided for the **Ryan White CARE Grant** program and a 41% increase for **global HIV/AIDS/TB programs** including the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** and **NIH Global HIV/AIDS activities**.
- A \$103.7 million increase in **Head Start** aimed at preventing a drop in enrollment
- \$125 million in a new **Title I School Improvement Fund** targeting assistance to the 6,700 schools that failed to meet the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) requirements in the 2005-2006 school year. Funds will help schools implement activities that would improve student performance, such as teacher training, tutoring programs, and upgrades to curriculum.
- A \$200 million increase to assist schools in educating students with disabilities under the **Individuals with Disabilities Act**.
- An increase to the maximum **Pell Grant** award to \$4,310.
- A \$300 million increase to “address critical operating needs at **Public Housing Authorities**
- A \$109 million increase in the **Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Formula Grants** and a \$70 million increase for **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**
- \$3.7 billion in funding for the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** program
- **The National Science Foundation (NSF)** will receive a \$401 million increase to advance basic science research.

Congressman Dent also supported the bill’s provision of FY 2007 highway, transit, and highway safety funding at levels guaranteed in SAFETEA-LU. Without this provision, Pennsylvania stood to lose \$130 million, potentially jeopardizing some 15th District transportation projects.

Congressman Dent had joined all of his colleagues on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in sending a letter to Appropriations Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Lewis urging that the Continuing Resolution provide sufficient transportation funding.

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